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## Notes on the Flora of Arizona

LYMAN BENSON

In this article the following topics are discussed: (1) A New Haplophyton from the Southwest; (2) *Triodia eragrostoides* in Arizona; (3) The California Poppy in Arizona.

### 1. A New Haplophyton from the Southwest

Dr. D. M. Crooks, head of the division of drug and related plants of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C., pointed out to the writer a difference in appearance of the Arizona plants of *Haplophyton cimidum* from figures of the same species grown in Mexico. Investigation of the characters of specimens obtained from the United States National Herbarium and in the University of Arizona Herbarium has resulted in the following segregation:

HAPLOPHYTON CIMICIDUM A. DC. var. **Crooksii** L. Benson, *var. nov.* Leaves lanceolate, 15-27 or rarely 32 mm. long, 4-8 or 10 mm. broad; seeds 6-7.5 mm. long, somewhat grooved and ridged, commonly with part of the surface with broad papillae resembling pebble-grained leather. Foliis lanceolatis, 15-27 mm. rariter 32 mm. longis, 4-8 mm. rariter 10 mm. latis; seminis 6-7.5 mm. longis, striatis vel partim papillatis. Southeastern Arizona to Western Texas; southward into Northern Mexico. Type collection: "Prison Road," Santa Catalina Mountains, Pima County, Arizona, D. M. Crooks & Robert A. Darrow, Dec. 27, 1939. Type mounted on three sheets in the Herbarium of the University of Arizona.

The corresponding characters of typical *Haplophyton cimidum* are as follows: Leaves ovate-attenuate, 35-45 mm. long, 14-22 mm. broad; seeds 8-10 mm. long, deeply grooved and ridged. The species is common in southern and central Mexico, and it occurs as far northward and westward as Guaymas, Sonora (Palmer in

1887, U. S.). Specimens of the variety with leaves large enough to be considered almost but not clearly transitional are the following: Baboquivari Mountains, Arizona, *Peebles, Harrison & Kearney 2795, U. S.*; Rio de los vueltos, Mexico (state not given), *Liebmann 11993, U. S.*; Eulalia Plains, Chihuahua, *Wilkinson* in 1885, U. S.

*Haplophyton cimicidum* is known as "hierba de la cucaracha" or cockroach plant, and the vegetative parts contain an insecticide used with cornmeal to kill cockroaches.

## 2. *Triodia eragrostoides* in Arizona

*Triodia eragrostoides* Vasey & Scribn. is one of many species growing in northern Mexico, which occur in Arizona and Texas but not in the intervening area in New Mexico. It has not been reported heretofore for Arizona. Mesquites along a small wash at the Barbeque Area of the Colossal Cave State Park, Pima County, Arizona, *L. Benson 9174*, Sept. 28, 1938, *L. Benson 9801*, Oct. 9, 1939. Range, cf. A. S. Hitchcock, *Manual of the Grasses of the United States* 213. 1935, "Florida Keys, Texas, and northern Mexico; Cuba," or, cf. W. J. Beal, *Grasses of North America* 2: 465. 1896, "Florida, Texas, and Mexico."

## 3. The California Poppy in Arizona

The California poppy, *Eschscholtzia californica* Cham. presents a classification problem to the systematic botanist, wherever he may find it, and it is not surprising that the plant occurring on the desert plains and hills in central and southern Arizona is unusual in some respects. It is difficult to discover enough characters in the California poppy to match the hundred or so specific names proposed by Greene, *Pittonia* 5: 205-293. 1905, but the species is variable in California. The annual form growing in Arizona is readily matched by some California plants, but it does not agree in some characters with the bulk of plants in that state. The torus rim is either not present or reduced to a ring not more than 2 mm. broad, the stems have a tendency to be scapose, and most years the flowers are smaller and paler. However, the excellent rainy spring of 1941 afforded an opportunity for study of the Arizona plant under conditions approximating those in various parts of California. According to the field observations of the writer, there is no reason to provide the

Arizona plant with a name other than *Eschscholtzia californica*, and specific names such as *E. mexicana* Greene, *E. aliena* Greene, *E. Jonesii* Greene, *E. arizonica* Greene, and *E. paupercula* Greene (cf. Greene loc. cit. pp. 260-263) are merely metonyms.

It is noteworthy that flower color is more variable than in the California forms of the species. In the poppy fields near Tucson colors included orange, yellow with orange center, white with yellow center, white, and numerous variations in color intensity within the major groups. Similar color-types occur in California, but those other than orange or orange-yellow are uncommon in the spring-time, while in Arizona they are remarkably prominent.

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### The Names of Cornus

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So early as 1833 Lindley, in founding his genus *Benthamia* (Bot. Reg. 19: 1579 et seq.), remarked "We do not understand upon what principle this very distinct genus has been combined with *Cornus*, from which it differs essentially both in flower and fruit. Whether or not *C. florida*, which agrees with it in habit, is also a species of *Benthamia*, our materials do not enable us to determine." In 1828 Rafinesque (Med. Bot. 132) had distinguished *C. florida* as section *Cynoxydon*, which in 1838 he elevated to generic rank (Alsog. Am. 59). This early tendency to divide the genus has continued, with varying success, until modern times. For instance, Moldenke (Rev. Sudam. Bot. 6: 177. 1940) says: "There is certainly no doubt in my mind that the genus *Cornus* as regarded by many botanists today is actually an aggregate of several distinct generic elements. The true genus *Cornus* is typified by *Cornus mas* L. and contains the so-called Cornelian-cherries. The cornels or osiers represent the genus *Svida*, the bunchberries represent the genus *Chamaepericyclonum*, the American flowering-dogwoods represent the genus *Benthamidia*, and the Asiatic flowering-dogwoods with their coalesced fruit represent the genus *Benthamia*."